Sustainability Strategy

1. Summary

1.1. The Authority currently has a number of cultures and practices aimed towards enhancing our sustainability. A strategy is put forward here to codify current practice and to set out a direction of travel and aspiration to guide future decision making and prioritisation.

Recommendation that:	**a**	**Members review and approve the proposed Sustainability Strategy.**

2. Background

2.1. The Authority does not currently have a sustainability strategy. Production and adoption of a strategy has been recognised as an important part of the policy framework and is a business plan target for 2025/26 (target 33).

2.2. There is already an international, national and local context which shapes our sustainability ambitions; this includes:

- United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)
- Paris Climate Agreement
- UK Climate Change Act (2008)
- UK government's Greening Government Commitments (GGCs)
- 30 by 30 Land for Nature's Recovery initiative
- Zero Carbon Cumbria
- LDNP Partnership's Management Plan
- World Heritage Site designation and Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value

2.3. This Strategy relates to the LDNPA as an organisation, with sustainability across the wider National Park being covered by the Lake District National Park Partnership's Management Plan.

3. Policy Context

3.1. The purpose of this Strategy is to set out a vision for what we think a sustainable National Park Authority looks like, to celebrate what we're doing well, to assess where we're falling short, and to map out how we're going to make up the difference. Some goals will be more easily achieved than others, and our resources are finite; so although we want to be visionary, we will also need to be realistic about how quickly we can progress towards each goal. We also have to recognise that sometimes there are conflicts between different areas of sustainability. Where these arise, we will endeavour to pursue the best overall outcome and give an explanation for the compromise.

3.2. A key element of adopting a strategy is symbolic and cultural. Symbolic in that we are formally recognising sustainability as a corporately significant policy area and cultural, in that through formal recognition, we increase the profile of sustainability and help to embed the principles into day-to-day operations and decision making. The specifics in the strategy build on the following core principles:

- Visionary and ambitious – although tempered by reality
- Comprehensive – encompassing all Authority activity
- Long-term rather than short-sighted
- Transparent
- Flexible – to adapt to changing understanding or circumstances
- Globally minded but locally focused

3.3. In, addition, there are a number of core operational themes. This Strategy is organised into the following areas:

- Climate change
- Land management
- Resource efficiency and waste
- Water
- Processes and decision-making
- Influence
- Monitoring and reporting

3.4. In each section we set out an ultimate goal illustrating ‘what a sustainable Authority looks like’, and some interim goals as stepping stones. Each section has a number of actions, some of which overlap. Some also correspond to existing business plan actions.

3.5. A summary action plan of all the actions is included at the end of the document. The intention is to produce an annual sustainability report at the end of each year to report on progress against the actions and to provide an opportunity to review and approve actions for the next year.

4. Options

4.1. Members can adopt the strategy as set out or propose amendments.

5. Proposals

5.1. The strategy is presented at Annex 1, the proposal is that Members review the strategy, propose any amendments, or approve as it.

6. Stakeholder consultation

6.1. Significant stakeholder consultation has been undertaken over the past 12 months. The Sustainability Advisor held a number of workshops across all staff to shape a draft strategy. This was reviewed by SLT in draft form and subsequently refined and re-shared with relevant staff, particularly the action plan items, to ensure the lead officers and timescales were realistic.

7. Demonstrating Best Value

7.1. There are no best value implications as a direct result of this report.

8. Finance Considerations

8.1. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. There may be specific actions within the report that have a budgetary requirement and these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

9. Risk

9.1. It is important that our policy framework covers all material aspects of our functions and ways of working to facilitate clear decision making. Should Members not approve the strategy, the Authority's position on sustainability will be less clear, which could make decision making and prioritisation more time consuming, when matters have some aspect of sustainability.

10. Legal Considerations

10.1. There is a complex legislative framework around sustainability, including future commitments for greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy will help to ensure that the Authority has reflected the applicable statutory requirements in it's policy framework.

11. Human Resources

11.1. There are no staffing implications as a direct result of this paper. There may be some actions with an impact on staff behaviours which will be considered on a case by case basis.

12. Diversity Implications

12.1. There are no direct diversity implications of adopting the strategy.

13. Sustainability

13.1. There are significant sustainability impacts as a result of the report. These are directly addressed in Annex 1.

Author/Post	Martin Sleath, Sustainability Advisor Peter Notley, Head of Resources
Responsible Officer	Gavin Capstick, Chief Executive
Date Written	25 July 2025